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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON

FOR THE YEAR

1969

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON

1969

Chairman of the Council: Councillor W. Edwards, C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. Nunn.

Chairman of the Health Committee: Councillor R. Moyle

Chairman of the Housing Committee:
Councillor W. Edwards, C.C.

Councillors:

D. B. S. Angel
Mrs. M. Aston
T. Bennett
W. L. Carnan
Mrs. M. Dodds
P. Douthwaite
J. Forster
H. Fox
R. A. Goad
J. Howe
J. G. Huntington
W. Jackson
K. Newby
F. Pickering
B. Stephens
R. Smyth
Mrs. L. L. Trotter

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):
E. M. Osborne, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.R.C.O.G.

Public Health Inspector:
K. Robson

Deputy Public Health Inspector:
G. R. Sewell

Pupil Public Health Inspector:
A. Horner

Clerical Assistant:
S. Thompson

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1969

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for 1969.

The population again fell slightly and so did the births by 54 giving a standardised rate of 15·1 compared with 16·3 for England and Wales.

The number of deaths fell by 19 to 174 giving a standardised rate of 15·5 compared with 11·9 for the whole country. 113 of these were 65 years and over and 58 were 75 years and older.

The number of infant deaths increased by 1 to 6. In association with the reduced birth rate this increased our Infantile Mortality Rate to the disappointingly high figure of 30 (19·61 for 1968). The figure for the whole country is 18.

Of these infant deaths, 4 died under 4 weeks, one of congenital anomalies, and 3 of injuries and other conditions associated with birth. Of the remaining 2, one died of influenzal broncho-pneumonia at 4 weeks and one of congenital heart disease at 5 weeks.

This year there were no maternal deaths. The number of deaths from cancer of all parts of the body was up by 8 to 36, the increase being cancer of the bronchus (an extra 4 this year—3 men and 1 woman) and cancer of the intestine (4 this year and none last).

Deaths due to conditions of the heart and vascular system numbered 65 as against 69 last year though a bigger proportion this time were diagnosed as ischaemic heart disease which is usually caused by coronary thrombosis.

Two deaths occurred from diabetes, both in women over 75 years.

Pneumonia caused 8 deaths, a decrease of 4, and deaths from bronchitis were up 7 this year to 16.

There were 4 accidental deaths and 2 suicides.

No tuberculosis deaths occurred during the year and only one new case was notified, but this should not lead to complacency as 147 cases still remain on the register.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the area during the year.

Heaf testing of school entrants continues for diagnostic purposes and is repeated again on entry to secondary school when B.C.G. vaccination is given as required.

The number of notifications of infectious diseases showed a fall this year to 74. Measles cases were down to 23, we hope in view of measles vaccination given during the early part of the year, though following reports of reactions to the vaccine in other parts of the country, one type was withdrawn in April, and for the remainder of the year alternative types were in very short supply.

The number of cases of scarlet fever showed a sharp rise to 46, being maximal in the 5-10 years range. Fortunately, the cases were mild, consisting of sore throat and a rash of short duration, and they occurred sporadically during the year.

Only one case of dysentery and one of whooping cough were notified during the year. There were 2 cases of infective jaundice.

Vaccination against smallpox, poliomyelitis and measles, and immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough continue to be carried out in Child Welfare Clinics, Schools and General Practitioners' surgeries with good response.

This year, the direct labour section was included in the influenza vaccination scheme for staff and workmen. 83 employees of the Urban District Council received the vaccine, a much better response than last year (38).

Home Helps were supplied to 197 homes during the year, one more than last year.

The Meals on Wheels service continues to supply 24 dinners twice a week. At the end of the year there was a waiting list of 12.

The Meals from Neighbours Scheme was organised during the year as an emergency standby, but its services were not called upon as the Meals on Wheels coped with all urgent cases satisfactorily.

The Luncheon Clubs continue as social highlights for the elderly, 20 meeting at the Old Shildon Club on Tuesdays and 20 at the New Shildon Club on Thursdays.

The Red Cross continue to administer the Chiropody Clinics staffed by a County Chiropodist. A total of 103 twice weekly sessions was held, 983 pensioners and 4 physically handicapped persons receiving a total of 987 treatments.

73 houses were built by the Council with State Assistance and 15 by private persons making a total of 88 for the year.

The waiting list for old people's bungalows continues to grow. The 2 Warden Service Bungalow Schemes have been so successful in prolonging the independence of old people that a third one is now under consideration.

The Municipalisation of Dustbins and the conversion to the Paper Sack Collection System is continuing on schedule, approximately 80% of the town now using paper sacks for refuse collection. The total conversion should be completed by Mid-1970.

The Sewage Disposal Works continues to be used, but progress is being made with regard to the discharge of the town's sewage to the Aycliffe Disposal Works, agreement having been reached with the Darlington Rural District Council. The Consultant Engineers have estimated that the connection sewer should be completed in two years.

Finally, I should like to thank the Council for their co-operation, my staff for their loyalty and hard work and members of all voluntary organisations for their continuing willing service.

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION

The Registrar General's figures for the Area at Mid 1969, show the resident population as 13,660, this being a decrease of 130 in comparison with the previous year. The Comparability Factors for Shildon are:—

Births	1.03
Deaths	1.22

Live Births	Male	Female		
Number	109	92	=	201
Rate per 1,000 population				14.7 Standard.

Illegitimate Live Births (% of total Live Births):

	Male	Female		
Number	5	4	=	9
% of Total Live Births		4		

Still Births:

	Male	Female		
Number	2	3	=	5
Total Live and Still births	111	95	=	206

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births = 24

Total Live and Still Births:

	Male	Female	Total
Live	109	92	201
Still Births	2	3	5
Number	111	95	206

Infant Mortality Rates (deaths under one year):

3	3	6

Total Infant Deaths:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births: 30

Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births: 31

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births; Nil

Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births: 20

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births): 15

Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births): 39.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of Deaths: Nil

Death Rate:

Shildon Area: (Crude) ...	12.7 per 1,000 population	
(Standardised)	15.5 ,, ,,	
England and Wales	11.9 ,, ,,	
Deaths in Shildon Area, as per Returns to the Medical Officer of Health		83
Deaths of Shildon Residents outside the area ...		91

Infantile Mortality Rate:

The number of Deaths of children under the age of one year is 6, representing an Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births of 30. Of these, 1 occurred in Shildon.

The Infantile Mortality figure for England and Wales is 18.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

	Death Rate per 1,000 pop'n (Crude)	Inf. Mort. Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop'n (Crude)
Country Average (England & Wales) ...	11.9	18	13	16.3
Shildon	12.7	30	24	14.7

Births in excess of Deaths:

1950	56	1960	34
1951	52	1961	101
1952	58	1962	104
1953	64	1963	58
1954	61	1964	74
1955	27	1965	102
1956	71	1966	63
1957	50	1967	43
1958	98	1968	62
1959	74	1969	27

Population Changes:

1955	14,160
1956	14,050
1957	13,960
1958	13,920
1959	13,910
1960	13,920
1961	14,070
1962	14,130
1963	14,020
1964	13,940
1965	13,910
1966	13,890
1967	13,820
1968	13,790
1969	13,660

Age Groups of Deaths in Shildon:

Under 1 yr.	1–5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–60	60–70	70–80	80–90	Over 90	Total
1	—	—	—	1	15	20	28	17	—	83

Age Groups of Deaths Outside the Area:

Under 1 yr.	1–5	5–15	15–25	25–45	45–60	60–70	70–80	80–90	Over 90	Total
5	—	—	2	1	13	25	31	11	3	91

Cause of Death	Male	Female
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Intestine	—	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	10	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Prostate	1	—
Leukaemia	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	3	6
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	—	1
Diabetes Mellitus	—	2
Anaemias	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	3
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	2	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease	29	16
Other Forms of Heart Disease	1	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	6	9
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	5
Influenza	2	1
Pneumonia	5	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema	14	2
Asthma	—	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	—	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	—	1
Congenital Anomalies	—	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	—	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
All Other Accidents	3	—
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries...	2	—
All Other External Causes...	—	1
Total all Causes ...	92	82

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of Cases as notified in the Whole District, set out in age groups (Civilians only)

Infectious Disease	Under 1 yr.	1–2	2–3	3–4	4–5	5–10	10–15	15–20	20–35	35–45	45–61	61 & over	At all ages
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1	3	2	24	11	1	—	1	—	—	46
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	3	4	5	2	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	23
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
TUBERCULOSIS:													
1. MALES:													
(a) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Non Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. FEMALES:													
(a) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
(b) Non Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	5	5	6	5	9	27	12	1	1	3	—	—	74

TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases remained on the Register at the end of the year:

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males	73	7	80
Females... ...	53	14	67
	126	21	147

The number of known Tuberculosis Cases in the District represents 1·08% of the population, a decrease of ·04% over the previous year.

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1969

Immunisation against Diphtheria:—

183 No. — Primary Injections.
297 No. — Booster Injections.

Whooping Cough:—

92 No. — Primary Injections.
78 No. — Booster Injections.

Tetanus Injections:—

205 No. — Primary Injections.
318 No. — Booster Injections.

Smallpox Vaccinations:—

53 No. — Received Primary courses.
Nil — Re-vaccination.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination:—

189 No. — Received Primary injections.
230 No. — Received Booster injections.

Measles:—

55 No. — Received Primary Injections.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1969—*continued*

B.C.G. Vaccination:—

315 No. — Children were Heaf Tested.
52 No. — Children were Positive.
230 No. — Children were found to be Negative.
227 No. — Children were Vaccinated.

Reason for no vaccination: 1 Refused, 1 Rash, 1 Eczema.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Number of cases receiving Home Help at 1.1.1969 ...	142
New cases received during year	55
Total number of cases provided with help during year ...	197
Cases terminated during the year	52
Cases receiving service at 31.12.1969	145

CHIROPODY SERVICE

Number of sessions from 1.1.1969—31.12.1969	103
Number of treatments	987
Number of aged persons treated	296
Number of physically handicapped persons	4

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT

Area (in acres) including Eldon, Old Eldon, Middridge and Brusselton	4,828
No. of inhabited houses in the District of which 88 were constructed during the year, 88 Condemned/Closed and Demolition Orders served under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. The tenants of such houses demolished being re-housed by this Council	4,792
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,175
Rateable Value	£298,990

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse Collection:

Domestic, Shop and Trade Refuse is collected throughout the area by regular weekly collection provided by the Council. The disposal of the refuse is done by controlled tipping at Sunnydale Tip in a most satisfactory manner.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

Drains and Sewerage:

The drains and sewers continue to work in a satisfactory manner.

Rodent Control:

Private businesses and dwelling houses were treated as and where necessary—a charge being made to properties other than dwelling house property, and complete sewer treatments were carried out during the year. A Rodent Operator is employed by the Council for the purpose of carrying out this work.

The public continue to report promptly to the Council Offices any infestation of rats and mice being found on their property.

No. of premises visited	No. of baits laid
219	2,323

The number of visits made during the year on Rat Infested premises during which treatment was carried out being ... 1,273

Water Supply:

(**a**) The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quantity and the quality was maintained during the year.

(**b**) No contamination of the supply occurred in the Shildon U.D.

(**c**) The total number of bacteriological samples taken in the Shildon area during 1969 was 21.

(**d**) There are 4,843 dwelling houses supplied. There are no houses on stand pipes.

(**e**) Natural fluoride is present in the water from 0.1 to 0.45 p.p.m.

(**f**) So far as is known, no house is without a piped water supply.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

Summary of Notices and work done in the Public Health Inspectors Department during the Year ended 1969.

1. Houses erected in area:

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	73	—	73
(b) By any other Local Authority ...	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	15	15
	73	15	88

2. Closing and Demolition of Houses.

(a) Formal Action:

	No.
(i) No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action	78
(ii) No. of houses Closed but not demolished as a result of formal action	10
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed	—
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation	—

(b) Informal Action:

(i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

3. Reconditioning and Repair.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

		No.
(a)	As a result of informal action	18
(b)	By owners as a result of statutory notice ...	3
(c)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

4.

(a) Water, Food and Drugs:

	No.
Samples of water taken for Analysis (water samples are taken by the Durham County Water Board)	—
No isolated samples were taken by this Council as this is the function of the Durham County Council	—
Seizures of unwholesome food (voluntarily surrendered)	178
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis or found to be adulterated	—
Number of cases of food adulteration reported to this Council	—

(b) Precautions against Infectious Diseases:

Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	—
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	—

(c) General:

Number of new houses Erected during the year	70
Number of such houses Occupied during the year	70
Total number of Water Closets in the District ...	5,207
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District ...	19

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—
continued

MILK RETAILERS

There are in the District 5 Retail Purveyors who are supplying either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Regular samples are taken for testing by the Durham County Council Weights and Measures Department who have reported satisfactory results during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, there are 2 slaughterhouses. The 2 slaughterhouses concerned are each attached to the retail shop for which they are used, and conform to the standards laid down under the provisions of the above Act, and have been duly licensed thereunder. All animals slaughtered have been subject to inspection which has amounted to 100%. A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained in the slaughterhouses throughout the period.

The slaughterhouses have also been inspected by the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and have been found satisfactory.

The 2 slaughterhouses concerned are as follows:—

(1) J. N. Percival ... 25, Church Street, Shildon.

(2) J. Studham ... 49, Church Street, Shildon.

The total number of animals inspected during the year being:—

	Animals Slaughtered
Cattle	153
Sheep	329
Pigs	256

HOUSING

(a) The Council's Pre-War and Post-War Housing Programmes are summarised as follows:—

	No. Erected
1919 Act	124
1930-1935 Act:	
North Eastern Housing Association, Newcastle. (Let by this Council)	100

	No. Erected
Post-War Permanent Housing	1,160
Post-War Aged Persons Bungalows	248
Post-War Flats	58
(28 available for Old Aged Persons)	
Communal Centres	2
Warden's Flats	2

(b) Re-Housing:

During the year ended 31st December, 1969, 124 houses were let to the following groups, in accordance with the Council's allocation of houses Scheme:

	No.
Points	58
Individual Unfit Houses...	46
Key Workers	10
Eviction Case	1
Medical Cases	9
	124

(c) The number of dwellings built by the Council during the year was 73, 11 houses at Auckland Terrace, 38 at Auckland Wynd, 21 at Elm Drive and 3 at College Street.

The allocation of Council houses is made on the following grounds:

(1) Clearance.
(2) Points.

together with serious medical cases. Special provisions being made to allocate bungalows to old people within the town itself.

HOUSING—*continued*

Persons requiring housing accommodation, should complete the Housing Application Form, obtainable at the Council Offices, for inclusion on the following year's Housing List.

The number of applicants remaining on the Housing and Bungalow List at 31st December, 1969, were as follows:—

Applications	Type of dwelling required
133	Two and Three bedroom houses.
158	Bungalows.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 (Standard Grants).

The following is a summary of applications received under the provisions of the above Act, from January—31st December, 1969:—

(i)	No. of applications received	74
(ii)	No. of applications approved	51
(iii)	No. of applications rejected	2
(iv)	No. of applications withdrawn	4
(v)	No. of improvements completed	39

During the year 1968/1969, the Shildon Accident Prevention Society Team were runners up in the Northumberland and County Durham Cycling Proficiency Championship.

During this period, 42 children were trained in cycling proficiency as follows:

(a)	First year.	28 No.
(b)	Second year.	3 No.
(c)	Third year.	4 No.
(d)	Fourth year.	2 No.
(e)	Fifth year.	1 No.
(f)	Sixth year.	2 No.
		40 No.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Regular visits were paid to the factories in the area and, in general, conditions were found to be good.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. M. OSBORNE,

Medical Officer of Health,
Shildon Urban District Council.

SHAW & SONS LTD., SHAWAY HOUSE, LONDON, S.E.26.